REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Report on the working of the Geological Department.

READ—

Administration Report of the Department of Geology for the year 1924-25, received with letter No. C. 194-1, dated 24th September 1925, from the Director of Geology.

ORDER No. I. C. 3691-2—GEOL. 10-25-4, DATED 28TH NOVEMBER 1925.

Recorded.

2. Mr. A. M. Sen continued to officiate as Director of Geology till September 1924, when Mr. B. Jayaram returned from long leave and resumed charge of the Department in which he continued during the rest of the year. Mr. V. T. Venugopal, Supernumerary Sub-Assistant Geologist and Mr. E. R. Thirumalachar, Assistant Chemist were posted for duty to the Bhadravati Iron Works. Messrs. A. M. Sen and Venkataramiah were employed for about 5 months, in the examination of some of the chrome and manganese blocks with a view to investigate their ore contents in respect of both quality as well as quantity.

3. The partial relaxation of reservation which was ordered in respect of chrome in the previous year was made applicable to manganese also, in October 1924, so as to permit of the grant of prospecting licenses for that mineral for a period of three years to approved applicants, subject to certain conditions. In pursuance of this order, 23 applications were received of which 4 which satisfied the required conditions, were approved by Government. Instructions were also issued during the year, in the matter of issuing collecting licenses for soap-stone subject to certain conditions. The question of further revising the rules for the grant of exploring and prospecting licenses and mining leases in the State is under the consideration of Government.

4. There were 52 certificates of approval in force during the year as against 45 in the previous year. The number of fresh certificates issued was 18 against 23 in the previous year. The total number of applications for certificates of approval, exploring, prospecting and collecting licenses and mining leases was 90 as against 110 in the previous year. The total area under mining leases and prospecting licenses was 47,051 acres against 42,275 acres in 1923-24, but the amount of rent recovered was Rs. 18,972 against Rs. 21,459 in the previous year. The Director is requested to furnish explanation for this fall in the rent notwithstanding the increase in the total area. Work was carried on during the year on 17 mining and 42 prospecting blocks, the minerals exploited being gold, manganese, chrome, magnesite, asbestos, mica, soap-stone, kaolin, fire-clay and lime-stone.

5. The number of mining leases and prospecting licenses current for manganese was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 2 and 10, respectively. The quantity of ore extracted and exported was 33,251 and 44,678 tons against 38,508 and 48,750 tons, respectively, in the previous year. The royalty payable to Government on the ore exported was Rs. 19,845 against Rs. 22,543 in the year 1923-24. The largest output and export were from the blocks held by the United Steel Company, Ltd., Shimoga.

6. There were 9 mining leases and 8 prospecting licenses current for chrome ore, as against 9 and 3 in the previous year. There was a considerable fall in the output of the mineral during the year, only 6,107 tons of chrome having been collected and 11,863 tons exported as against 40,996 tons and 28,773 tons, respectivley, in the previous year. The royalty paid on the ore exported was Rs. 12,364 as against Rs. 26,146 in the previous year. It is reported that the fall is due to the severe competition of other chrome producing countries and to the absence of a market for low grade ores. There was no output at all of magnesite and asbestos. There was a slight increase in the output as well as export of mica, kaolin, soap-stone, etc. One thousand one hundred and eighty-five tons of lime-stone and 1,052 tons of dolomite were produced and used for manufacturing purposes, during the year.

7. Excluding of the royalty on gold and silver, the revenue of the Department under other items decreased from Rs. 1,09,452-12-1 in the previous year to Rs. 79,842-0-6 during the year under report as detailed below:—

	1923-24	1924-25
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Royalty on minerals other than gold and silver.	75,530 0 8	42,319 0 4
Fees	2,470 0 0	1,420 6 0
Rent on prospecting licenses	4,454 3 0	5,153 7 3
Rent on mining leases	16,787 12 3	15,512 2 3
Assays and analysis	122 8 0	37 4 0
Other items	10,088 4 2	15,399 12 8
Total ...	1,09,452 12 1	79,842 0 6

The Director is requested to furnish in future reports, information regarding the demand, collection and arrears under the several heads of mining revenue.

8. Government are glad to note that a Mining Association was formed during the year of all licensees and others interested in mining in the State, for purposes of bringing about a better understanding and preventing unhealthy competition and rivalry among themselves.

9. The progress made in the revision survey is not adequate. Work was confined to the Chitaldrug and Kadur Districts. The Director's further report is awaited regarding the results of his investigation in the neighbourhood of Oblapur and Dodakittadahalli in the Chitaldrug District, where a rich ore is reported to have been located.

10. The work of the Department progressed on much the same lines as those during the previous year. Government desire that during the current year special attention should be devoted to consolidate and classify the revision survey work done so far. Greater attention should also be paid to mineral survey and to other items on the approved programme of work for the year.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Distress Relief in Tumkur District.

READ—

Government Order Nos. R. 1340-2—R. M. 7-25-23, and R. 1370-3—R. M. 7-25-34, dated the 14th and 16th September 1925, respectively, sanctioning certain allotments for Relief of Distress in the Maddagiri and Pavagada Taluks.

2. Letter No. C. 437—25-26, dated the 12th November 1925, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, recommending sanction to the proposals made by the Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur District, in connection with the Distress Relief operations.

3. Memo No. C. 437—25-26, dated the 21st November 1925, from the same officer forwarding a further report on the seasonal conditions in the affected parts of Tumkur District.

ORDER No. R. 2761-4—R. M. 7-25-39, DATED 28TH NOVEMBER—2ND DECEMBER 1925.

In connection with the relief of distress in the Tumkur District, Government sanctioned during the current year the following allotments in the Government Orders read above:—

(1) Takavi and land improvement loans, Rs. 20,000.
(2) Village improvement works and temporary wells, Rs. 5,000.
(3) Gratuitous relief, Rs. 200.

2. After a personal inspection of the affected parts, the Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur District, reports that although there have been heavy rains recently throughout the Tumkur District, it is still necessary to provide people with employment in

the Distressed Taluks of Maddagiri and Pavagada till the next mungar rains and requests sanction for the following proposals :—

(1) An additional sum of Rs. 500 for gratuitous relief.
(2) A further grant of Rs. 4,000 for village improvement works, with permission to waive the raiyats' share of contribution up to a limit of Rs. 2,000 for each hobli.
(3) An allotment of Rs. 6,000 for tank maintenance works of which a sum of Rs. 2,706 will be ultimately recovered from the raiyats.
(4) Allotment of Rs. 10,000 out of the Irrigation Cess Fund General for the Gundagere Feeder, the raiyats' contribution when collected being credited to that Fund.
(5) The restoration of the Kodagadal minor tank out of the funds provided for minor tank restoration.
(6) Starting the work of collection of materials on the Maddagiri-Hindupur Road.

3. Government have carefully considered the proposals of the Deputy Commissioner, which are supported by the Revenue Commissioner and are pleased to sanction them in their entirety. The Comptroller is requested to place the funds required at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Engineer.

4. The Chief Engineer is requested to take necessary action in respect of items 3 to 6 above in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur District.

5. In view of the recent rains, it may not be necessary to start all the works immediately. They may be taken up only when there is absolute necessity therefor.

6. Items (1) to (3) require sanction of the Legislative Council and a supplementary demand to cover the same will be placed before it at its next session.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Accidental Fires.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 2746-56—L. R. 11-16-2, dated 7th September 1916, fixing the value of timber that may be granted in each individual case of accidental fire by the Deputy Commissioner, the Sub-Division Officer and the Amildar at Rs. 50, 25 and 10, respectively.

2. Government Order No. R. 19-20—Ft. 129-20-1, dated 22nd October 1920, raising the value of timber that may be granted by the Amildar to Rs. 25.

3. Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 2707-24-25, dated 23rd—25th September 1925, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, recommending that the Sub-Division Officers and the Deputy Commissioners may be empowered to grant building materials to sufferers from accidental fires to the extent of Rs. 50 and Rs. 75, respectively, in each case, to avoid the inconvenience and delay that now occur in obtaining sanction for grant of building materials of more than Rs. 50 in value.

ORDER No. R. 2888-97—R. M. 16-25-3, DATED 5TH DECEMBER 1925.

Sanctioned.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Certain lands to be given back to the Amrut Mahal Department.

READ—

Letter No. C. 1806—24-25, dated the 4th November 1925, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, reporting with reference to Government Order No. R. 4722-35—L. R. 30-24-21, dated the 4th February 1925, that the extent of land forming the margin of 110 yards between the Seegegudda Amrut Mahal kaval and block B of the Sivapur Amrut Mahal kaval in the Belur Taluk is 32 acres and recommending that this area as well as another block of 26 acres marked N in the sketch may be given back to the Amrut Mahal Department.

ORDER No. R. 2917-21—L. R. 240-25-2, DATED 5TH DECEMBER 1925.

Sanctioned.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.